

REMARKS

The Office examined claims 1-14, 16, 17 and rejected same. With this paper, none of the claims are amended, none are canceled and none are added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office rejected claims based on the following grounds:

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Northcutt (U.S. Publication 2004/0176114 A1, Northcutt hereinafter) in view of Natsuno (U.S. Publication 2003/0092455 A1, Natsuno hereinafter).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Northcutt in view of Natsuno and further in view of well known prior art.

Claims 8-14 and 16-17 are rejected for the same arguments/reasons that were made in the rejection of claims 1-7 above.

All above rejections are based on Northcutt in combination with other references. Applicant respectfully submits that Northcutt does not qualify as prior art for the present application.

The present application is a national stage entry of PCT application PCT/FI03/00939, filed on December 10, 2003. The PCT application claims priority to Finnish patent application No. 20022176, filed on December 11, 2002. Therefore, the earliest priority date of the present application is December 11, 2002.

Northcutt was filed as a US utility application (Serial Number 10/248,982) on March 6, 2003. The USPTO record shows that it does not claim priority to any other applications. Therefore, the earliest date of Northcutt is March 6, 2003 and this date is later than the above earliest priority date of the present application. Northcutt cannot be used as a prior art reference.

A certified copy of the Finnish patent application 20022176 was submitted to the Office previously. A certified English translation of the Finnish patent application 20022176 will be submitted as soon as it becomes available.

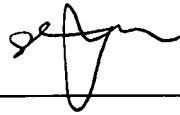
Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early passage to issue is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's agent at the number below if there are any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,



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